

AIRCRAFT ACTION REPORT

(OMIT THIS SHEET IF NO ATTACK WAS MADE)

REPORT No. 54

XI. ATTACK ON ENEMY SHIPS OR GROUND OBJECTIVES (By Own Aircraft Listed in II Only).

(a) Target(s) and Location(s) Northwest Two Jlas (b) Time Over Target(s) 1545 E (Zone)
(FOR SHIPS INCLUDE ALL IN AREA UNDER ATTACK)

(c) Clouds Over Target 3000' Cumulus .8
(BASE IN FEET, TYPE AND TENTHS OF COVER)

(d) Visibility of Target Clear except for terrain (e) Visibility 10
(CLEAR, HAZY, PARTIALLY OBSCURED BY CLOUDS, ETC.) (MILES)

(f) Bombing Tactics: Type Slide and rocket Bomb Sight Used Mk. 8
(LEVEL, GLIDE OR DIVE) (TYPE)

Bombs Dropped per Run One and two Spacing 0 Altitude of Bomb Release 1800
(NUMBER) (FEET) (FEET)

(g) Number of Enemy Aircraft Hit on Ground: Destroyed _____ Probably Destroyed _____ Damaged _____

(h) AIMING POINT	(i) DIMENSIONS OR TONNAGE	(j) NO. A/C ATTACKING (k) SQUADRON	(l) BOMBS AND AMMUNITION EXPENDED, EACH AIMING POINT	(m) NO. HITS On Aiming Point	(n) DAMAGE (None, slight, serious, destroyed or sunk)
1 Pillbox and gun positions		2 TBM-3 VF-33	4 - 500# 16 - 5" H.E. rockets 200 rds. .50 cal.	2 bombs 8 rockets	Unobserved
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

(o) RESULTS: (For all hits claimed on ship targets and for land targets of special interest, draw diagram, top or side view or both, as appropriate, showing type and location of hits. For all targets give location and effect of hits, and identify by numbers above. Use additional sheets if necessary).

A pillbox and gun positions were reported in target area 216 R and S, and 4 - 500# bombs and at least 8 rockets hit the specific area. The positions were hidden or obscured by the terrain so that they were never seen. The attack was on an area rather than particular points and no specific damage could be ascertained.

(p) Were Photographs Taken? No. Photographs of Damage, When Taken, Should Be Attached By Staple.

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XII. TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL DATA. (Narrative and comment. Describe action fully and comment freely, following applicable items in check list at left. Use additional sheets if necessary.)

ENGAGEMENT WITH ENEMY

OWN AIRCRAFT

Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack and
Their Effectiveness
Distance of Opening Fire
Defense Tactics and
Their Effectiveness

ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Method of Locating, Distance
Disposition
Altitudes
Speeds
Approach Tactics
Use of Cover, Deception
Angles of Attack
Distance of Opening Fire
Defensive Tactics

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Own Weaknesses
Enemy Weaknesses
Offensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
Defensive Tactics, Own
" " , Enemy
Flexible Gunnery, Own
Escort Tactics
Fighter Direction
Use of Radar
Night Fighting
Recognition, Aircraft

ATTACK

OWN TACTICS

Method of Locating Target
Approach to Target
Altitudes, Speeds
Approach
Dive
Pull-Out
Dive Angle
Strafing
Retirement
Defensive Tactics
Use of Jamming

DEFENSE, ENEMY

Evasive Tactics, Ships
Concealment
Searchlights
Night Fighter Tactics
Use of Jamming

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Bombing Tactics
Torpedo Tactics
Effectiveness of
Bombs, Torpedoes
Selection of Targets
Fuzing
Strafing Tactics
Defensive Tactics
Use of Radar
Reconnaissance
Photography
Briefing

OPERATIONAL

Navigation
Homing
Rendezvous
Recognition, Ships
Communications
Flight Operations
Search and Tracking
Base Operations
Maintenance

Two TBM-3's of VC-53, piloted by Lt. E. L. KEMPF and Ensign H. P. PROVOST, on direct support of ground operations at Iwo Jima were told to attack target area 216 R & S in northwester Iwo Jima. A pillbox and gun positions were reported in that area. A dummy run was made to make sure of the target area, then bombing, rocket and strafing attacks were made. Lt. Kempf, on his first live run, fired 8 rockets and then dropped one 500# G.P. bomb, on his second run one 500# bomb, on his third he strafed. The two bombs fell in the target area. His glides were begun at 3200 feet altitude at a 30 degree angle of descent, releasing at about 1800 feet. He pulled out of his strafing run at about 800 feet. Ensign Provost dropped two 500# bombs, in salvo, on his first live run, fired 8 rockets on his second and strafed on his third. All eight rockets hit in the area but the bombs were unobserved. His bombing run was begun at 3500 feet altitude at 30 degrees, releasing at 1800 feet altitude. On the one strafing run he pulled out at 700 feet altitude. No specific damage could be noted inasmuch as the positions were well hidden.

Medium moderate anti-aircraft fire from the target area struck the left elevator on Lt. Kempf's plane, causing but slight damage, while he was making his attack.

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RESTRICTED
(Reclassify when
filled out)

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XIII. MATERIAL DATA. (Comment freely on performance or suitability, following check list at left.
Use additional sheets if necessary).

ARMAMENT

Guns, Gunsights
Turrets
Ammunition
Bombs, Torpedoes
Bomb Sights
Bomb Releases

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio, Radar
Homing Devices
Visual Signals
Codes, Ciphers

RECOGNITION

IFF
Signals
Battle Lights
Procedures

PROTECTION

Armor; Points and Angles
of Fire Needing Further
Protection
Leak Proofing

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

Parachutes
Life Belts, Life Rafts
Safety Belts
Emergency Kits
Rations, First Aid

NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Compasses
Driftsights
Octants
Automatic Pilots
Charts
Field Lighting

INSTRUMENTS

Flight
Power Plant

OXYGEN SYSTEM

**CAMOUFLAGE AND
DECEPTION DEVICES**

STRUCTURE

Airframe
Control Surfaces
Control System
Dive Flaps
Landing Gear
Heating System
Flight Characteristics
At Various Loadings

POWER PLANT

Engines
Engine Accessories
Propellers
Lubricating System
Starters
Exhaust Dampers

HYDRAULIC SYSTEM

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Auxiliary Plant
Lights

FUEL SYSTEM

FLIGHT CLOTHING

MAINTENANCE

BASE FACILITIES

Plane Servicing Equipment
Personnel Facilities

No comment.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

H. D. SCHWAB, Lt. USNR, AGIO, USNR
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

H. L. KEMPF, Lt. USNR, Commanding
SIGNATURE

RANK AND DUTY

27 Feb. 1945

DATE